

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 23, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Wanda Rice – Chair
Norman Babineau – Vice Chair
Holly Hanford Oliver – Secretary
Wayne Morris – Conservation Commission
James Finn – Conservation Commission

Wanda called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

DISCUSSION:

Wayne motioned to approve the Sept 25 Meeting Minutes, Norm seconded. Motion was approved 4-0-1.

Harvest update – Mike says late Oct / early Nov (fall).

DES wetland permit status from Wanda – all set.

Wayne motioned to approve new informational trailhead sign, Norm seconded. Will go up as soon as harvest starts, post around town and in local papers. Any remaining tree stands left in forest will need to be removed. Discussed mailing notices to abutters but consensus is to only post in public places.

Newspaper articles – Wayne and Holly still working on them.

Wayne excused to check with Rex on town forest lot merger.

ATV signs – Wanda added new sign, moved another based on ATV track activity. Game camera installed to watch trail activity. Will notify police or NH Fish and Game of improper use if needed.

Town volunteer status – Norm reported it was unanimously approved for all Forestry Committee members at the Oct 19 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Forestry fund – Dave says they keep track of it separately, we just have to ask. Norm wants a report with account number and interest rate. Wanda will keep track of the funds separately as well.

2016 Budgeting – money for minute taker: Dave didn't support it, but will get us a laptop. Did agree to add a couple hundred dollars in next year's budget to pay for workshops, association dues, and similar. Also suggested wording for a warrant article to create and maintain trails within the town

forest. Wanda and Norm discussed how much money to budget for maintenance and future usage (surveying). Discussed trail/bridge requirements for a new loop trail. Will utilize local volunteers and eagle scout projects when possible. Wayne returned to the meeting. Wanda motioned to submit warrant article draft wording with amount of \$7,000 for trail maintenance. Jim seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0.

Tree Farm designation – Mike working on it. Wanda will find out cost involved.

Wayne excused to call Rex.

Timeline – Norm reviewed changes and updates. Wanda will check on “Intent to Cut” documentation with town.

Citizen request came in to review forestry bids. Wanda sent entire bid package to Dave.

Wayne returned. He spoke with Rex about merging lots. Rex to submit paperwork for merger.

Norm received package from NH Timber Association and is interested in our committee joining the association. Wanda will review the information.

Norm and Wayne reported on meeting with the developer about Weston and Copps Hill trail entrance into town forest.

Wayne spoke to Eric town IT guy on adding trail mapping to online GIS. He is still working on it. Norm was on the Garden Club trail hike in the Rt 28 Windham Town Forest. Folks were excited to learn about and use an OpenStreetMap app to track progress on their smartphones as we hiked the trails.

Wanda motioned to adjourn, Norm seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Next meeting is planned for Friday, November 20 at 1:00 pm in the CDD room.

Forest Management Timeline Update (10/23/15)

EVENT	TIMING	OWNER	STATUS
Competitive bidding on forest management	Completed Fall 2014	Committee	BSF bid approved 12/5
Post tree hunting stands for removal	Completed Fall 2014	Wanda/Norm/Holly	2 Stands Posted, +1 at Osgood
Submit 2014 annual town/state reports	Completed Winter 2014-15	Norm/Wanda	Town and State submitted.
Removal of any remaining tree hunting stands	Completed Winter 2014-15	Norm/Wanda	2 Stands Removed 3/6
Letter to CCD for notification and technical review	Completed Winter 2014-15	Wanda	Wanda delivered
General article on forest management benefits	Completed Winter 2014-15	Wanda	Wanda published
Mark trees to be harvested	Completed Spring 2015	Forester	Weeks of 3/16 - 4/21
Newspaper/web article about forest wildlife	Completed Spring 2015	Committee	Wanda published vernal info
BOS approval to use Landfill for access landing	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	5/18 BOS meeting
Newspaper/web article with status and goals	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda	Wanda published Silviculture
CDD Technical Review Committee	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	5/26 Meeting
Public Forestry Workshop & Education	Completed Spring 2015	Committee	6/2 Meeting
Planning Board public hearing	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	6/17 Hearing
Post "No Motorized Vehicles" signs	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda	6/19 (4) signs
Harvest logger bid process initiated	Completed Summer 2015	Forester	6/23 Viewing
Remove hunting stand near Corliss	Completed Summer 2015	Wanda/Norm	6/29 Eric R. assisted
Approve logger high bid.	Completed Summer 2015	Committee	7/10 Meeting
Sign logger contract	Completed Summer 2015	Wanda	8/6 Signed contract
File intent to cut with town	Summer 2015	Forester	Mike submitted, Wanda to chk
File wetlands impact forestry notification	Completed Summer 2015	Forester	Mike submitted, ok rec from DES
Harvesting activities	Fall 2015	Forester/Logger	Possible start Oct/Nov
Send out letters to neighbors for a forest tour	Fall 2015	Forester/Committee	Post harvest?
2016 town warrant article	Fall 2015	Committee	Wanda to submit draft to Dave
2016 Budget to fund memberships, workshops, etc.	Completed Fall 2015	Committee	Town \$ from existing budgets
Submit 2015 annual town/state reports	Winter 2015-16	Committee	